

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 are pending with claims 1 and 10 being independent. By the present Amendment, claims 1-18 have been amended to make minor editorial changes in accordance with U.S. practice.

It is requested that the application be examined on the basis of the claims as amended.

Favorable consideration of the subject application is respectfully requested. If there are any questions concerning this paper, or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at his or her earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,  
BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC.

Date: August 23, 2006

By: E. Joseph Gess Reg. No. 45,774  
E. Joseph Gess  
Registration No. 28510

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620